

# Kizuna

## Bonds of Love

3

Explicit  
Content:  
Parental  
Advisory



Kazuma Kodaka

Story and Art by Kazuma Kodaka



### Rena

Kei's friend. She unwittingly comes between Kei and Ranmaru, and harbors a secret that will have powerful ramifications on their relationship.



### Kai Sagano

Kei's half-brother. Because he grew up as the son of a Yakuza boss, his life was constantly being put in harm's way. Having Masa to protect him helped, and as Kai grew, so did his feelings for his bodyguard.



### Masanori (Masa) Araki

A soldier in the Sagano Yakuza family, as well as Kai's bodyguard and friend. He feels a deep affection for Kai, and would go to great lengths to protect and to please him.

## Character Profiles

### Kei Enryoji

Ranmaru's lover is the son of a Yakuza boss. Kai is his half-brother from a different mother. A hit-and-run driver that was meant to hit Kei cut Ranmaru's Kendo career short. Overcome with guilt, Kei pledged undying devotion and support to Ranmaru.



### Ranmaru (Ran) Samejima

Kei's lover and confidant. He is a former Kendo star who had to quit the sport because of a freak car accident. He is very proud, but sometimes needs help to find his way in the world.

## RAPUNZEL'S HEARTACHE



## Story So Far

After a freak hit-and-run accident, Kendo star **RANMARU SAMEJIMA** tragically had to give up his career as an amateur swordsman. He managed to cope with his injuries because of the love from his boyfriend, **KEI ENJOJI**.

Life at home was peaceful for the two lovers until **KAI SAGANO**, Kei's half-brother, came to town. Kai secretly loved Ranmaru and tried to come between Ran and Kei, but to no avail. The half-brothers worked through their differences and made peace with one another. Kai and Kei's father sent his people to retrieve Kai and bring him home. **MASA ARAKI**, Kai's bodyguard and friend, was the one that brought the news, and Kai left with him. Kei noticed an attraction between Masa and Kai but didn't say anything.

Ranmaru and Kei moved on with their lives, and continued to take care of what mattered the most: each other.





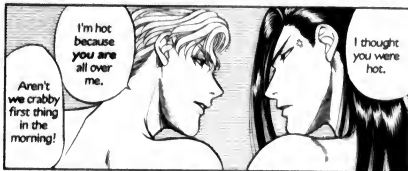
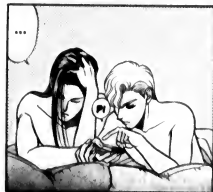
KIZUNA SERIES 7

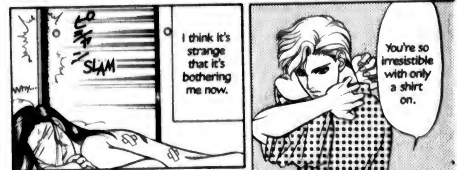
RAPUNZEL'S HEARTACHE

# 哀愁のラプンツェル



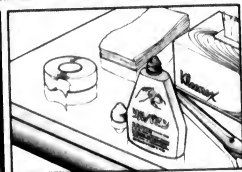
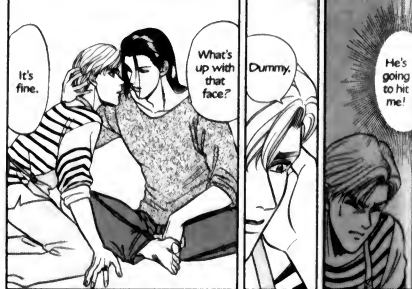






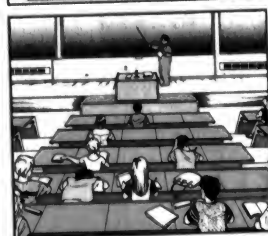
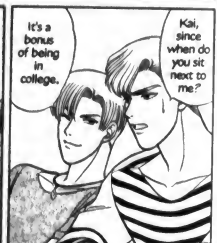












I can imagine him screaming right now.







Arhh!  
Damn  
it. My  
head's  
cold!



That  
was so  
embarr-  
assing.

Sure.

Just  
fix it.

Huh  
huh.

It's going  
to be  
short, is  
that  
okay?

Ranmaru,  
you idiot!  
He took  
out chunks!



Oh, this?  
Does it  
look  
strange?

You  
cut  
it!?

Kei!?!  
What  
happened  
to your  
hair?



Huh?

Hey,

Tamura!



Kei?

Wh...

Have you  
seen  
Ranmaru?



I look like a  
chick. Hey, baby.

I'm  
getting  
all these  
images in  
my head...

This isn't  
good. I'm  
scared!



Oh,  
that  
sucks.

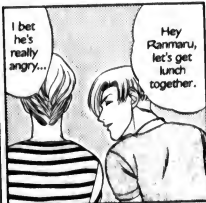
I should  
have just gone  
with him.



But it  
was his  
fault  
too, so--

That  
idiot will  
get angry  
if I just  
have lunch  
with you?

Possessive  
bastard!



I bet  
he's  
really  
angry...

Hey  
Ranmaru,  
let's get  
lunch  
together.



Huh?

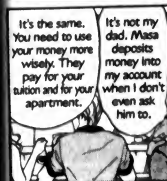
Then it's  
a date.  
I'll meet  
you at  
the front  
gate at  
noon.

Yeah,  
that's  
right...



—who  
cares if  
he gets  
pissed.  
Let's  
go!









To be honest, I was happy even though I injured you.



When I accidentally cut your hair...



You couldn't concentrate? You mean you didn't climax?



I've thought about it but I don't know what you're upset about.





...we had  
our first  
kiss.



In the  
Kendo  
Dojo at  
my house—



When  
we first  
met? That's a  
long time  
ago.

Yeah,  
we were  
much  
younger  
then.



The  
rest...

Your bangs  
would touch  
me when  
we kissed.



Ah, I  
knew  
you  
were  
going to  
stop me.

Yeah,  
down  
there...  
wanted to, but...

You were  
just about  
to, weren't  
you?

We'll  
do it at  
home.  
Okay?



You should  
have told  
me to cut  
my hair if  
it was  
bothering  
you.

Not that,  
dummy.



How  
could I say  
something  
like that?

Ouch.  
That  
hurt.

You  
should  
have said  
something...



Or else  
I'll feel like  
I'm the  
only one  
being  
selfish.

I'm  
yours. Be  
a little  
more  
selfish.



It reminds  
me of the  
cherry  
blossom  
season when  
we first  
met.

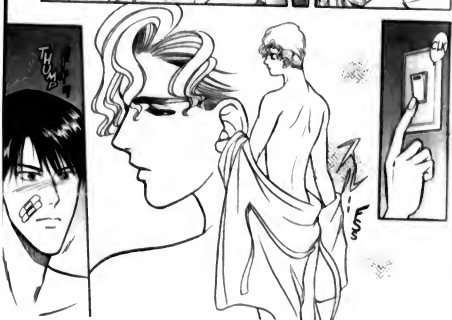


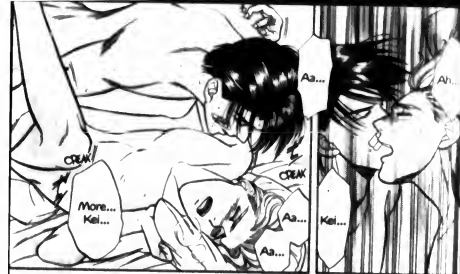
Softly  
caresses  
my  
cheek.



His short  
hair...

Do you  
like my  
new  
haircut?









KIZUNA SERIES 8  
恋のから騒ぎ  
LOVE SCRAMBLE



I've cut  
your hair  
so no one  
else can  
get to  
you.

I followed  
his hair  
and found  
him.

Just  
like  
that  
fairy tale.

Let's make  
a new  
fairy tale  
with just  
the two  
of us.



Masa

I  
knew  
it!

That  
biscard  
was just  
bluffing.

Periodic  
reports  
from Kei?  
I don't  
know what  
you're  
talking  
about.

Don't  
forget to  
pick up  
rice and  
toilet  
paper too.

You're the one  
who said I  
should be  
more  
selfish. I  
want you  
to go  
shopping  
after you're  
done doing  
the dishes.

M  
o  
r  
n  
i  
n  
g

I don't  
think  
this is  
frank  
I had  
in mind.

RAPUNZEL'S HEARTACHE THE END

DINO  
DINO



9254-1-1  
9254-1-1

When he comes home...

Okie-dokie!

How many times do I have to tell you to take your keys with you?

CREAK

He's always bar hopping with his customers.

He said he's on the last shift...

Kei works as a host.

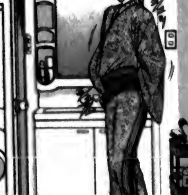
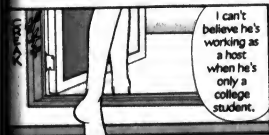
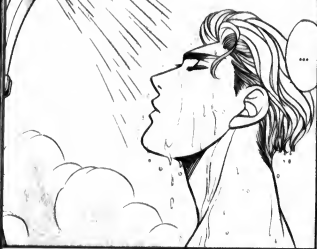
I'll sleep some more.

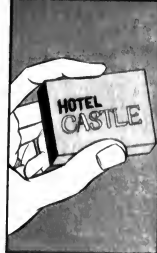
Kei works as a host.

I'll sleep some more.

It's been a while since the last *Kizuna* installment. When I finish a *Kizuna* series I get a lot of fan mail saying, "When are you going to do another *Kizuna* series?" That's probably because I only do a couple of chapters at a time. Hmmm... I think that's a question for the Editor and the *Kizuna* Rep. I meet my rep and then we decide what we should do and I go from there. This time I got a lot of letters asking if this was the end of the *Kizuna* series. Basically this is how it goes... If I can come up with an idea I'll draw it. (Not very assuring, is it...) If it's going to be the final installment I'll like to have a final conclusion, so no, it's not the end. I have a vague idea of how I want it to be but... if I say anymore the next round of letters will probably say, "It's going to end?" so I'll stop now. Currently I'm working on a series called *Kuusata Kyoshi No Houteishiki*! so I won't be able to draw *Kizuna* with that going on. Sorry! I'll draw one series and then I'll do the other! Now to think of it... there hasn't been many books of *Kizuna* but it's been going on for a while... *Planmaru* was in my debut manga. It's been six... no seven years and *Kiei* is all grown up (!!) (Laugh)

To be continued...





Stop sucking on my neck!



What's this?



The perfume is really strong today...



He always smells like his customers after work, but...

U-nyaaa...



What? Take your shirt off and go to bed.

Yeah, I want to sleep.



Hey, Kei! You slob!



Let's sleep together.



Oh come on...let's make love.

DROP

Hey! Scoop!



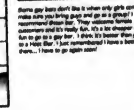
Look at how drunk you are! It's pathetic!

Ow!

SLAP

Go to bed by yourself.



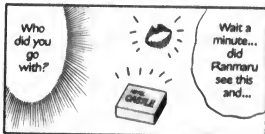






Did he break my teeth? Aw, that hurt!

Damn it! That sobered me up fast!



Who did you go with?

Wait a minute... did Ranmaru see this and...

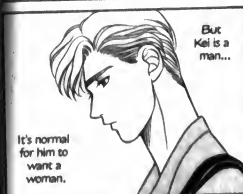


Lip... stick?

Why is it on me?



TOK!



But Kei is a man...

It's normal for him to want a woman.



Whatever!



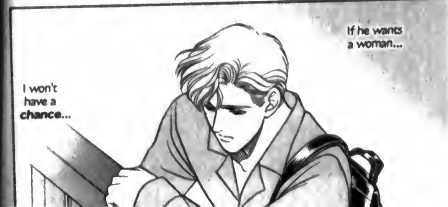
Calm down, you need to contact places where Ranmaru might go...



I'm sure you know her damn well!!

You've got it wrong...

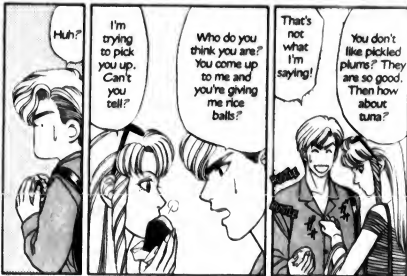
かっ—ん  
SHOCK



If he wants a woman...

I won't have a chance...







Are you full? You're happy, eh? There. There.



Okay...



She laughs like a child.

She's dressed really flashy, but...



You're such a ditz. We're going on a date!

Huh?

Date...

Where shall we go? Want to go to the movies?



Wow

Wow

Pick up lines are getting so creative these days...



Yep.

I had no idea...

Y...you are?



Having a meal with someone is so much better.

It's boring to eat by yourself.



You're alone, right?

Well, yeah, but...

But why did you try to pick me up?



>Chucklet you're so cute.



I'm the same as a dog?

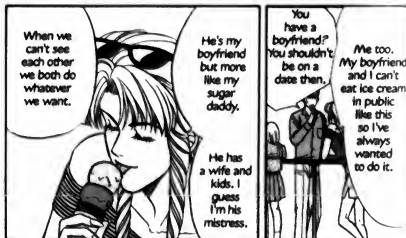


Look, a puppy!

Come here!

That's it?







We should be able to forgive them if they want to cheat on us once or twice. Let them have some fun.



Being secret lovers has its handicaps.

The relationship isn't going to last if you just keep telling them you love them and become a burden.



The point is once you fall in love it's not all peaches and cream.

I try to use philosophy, but just imagining my boyfriend having sex with someone else drives me nuts!



You really love this person.



Yeah... I'm with you on that.



You want the one you love to only look at you.



Isn't it hard to be in a relationship where you can't go out in public?

But...



...



Um, well...

So is that the kind of relationship you're in?

You don't have to hide it. I'm in one like that too!

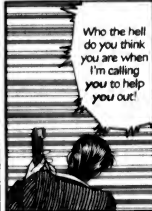


You should be able to hold hands, go out on dates and eat ice cream together—

—Isn't that what being in a relationship is all about?



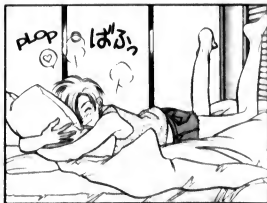








It smells like Ranmaru.



It smells like Ranmaru.



--my personality changed like this.

I'll burn it.

It's his fault--



← Straight black hair



Huh?



Okie-Pokie.

Kai, you stay here!

If Ranmaru comes home, you keep him here!



What are you talking about? I'm a gentleman. I wouldn't throw him on the bed or make him cry like someone else I know.

But! If you do something to Ranmaru like last time, you're a dead man.

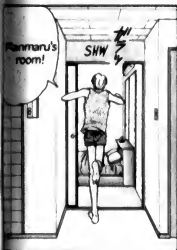


Yup. This is my Sugar Daddy's hotel. Do you like it?

Are you really waiting for him here?



Um...



Ranmaru's room!

SHW



This is a golden opportunity!



OW...

I'll see you later!

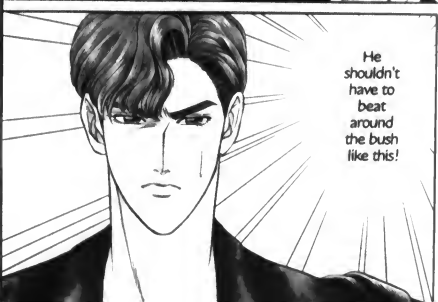




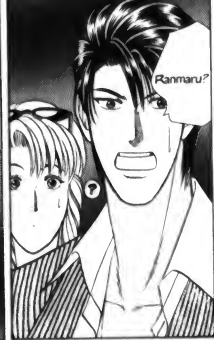
He was  
meeting  
Rena...



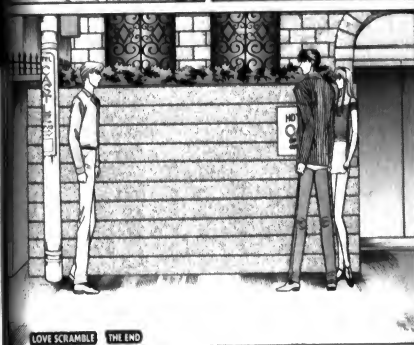
...while I  
was out?



He  
shouldn't  
have to  
beat  
around the  
bush  
like this!



Ranmaru?



LOVE SCRAMBLE THE END

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-The Village Voice



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## The Seduction Continues...

Ranmaru and Kei's relationship has had some emotional ups and downs, but no matter what the conflict, they have always managed to work through their problems and strengthen the bond that they share.

Will this be the challenge that finally puts an end to the relationship of a lifetime?

Age 18+

Explicit content  
Suggested for mature readers



KIZUNA SERIES 9

# LOVE PHANTOM

ラブ

ファントム



You've got it all wrong!

Wait! Ranmanu, don't go!



Wow

Ah!



みはる

Whoa!



Ran...



Wait a minute... is this...

Stop screaming! Senn!

Whatever, you bastard!



Shut up! I'm done with your insensitive attitudes!

Calm down! I've got it all wrong! Hey!

We're through!

We're through!



Huh? He's a guy I picked up.

Is he your friend?

What are you doing with Ranmanu?



I feel like such an idiot!



I was picked up by Rena out of all people...

You picked him up?

Speaking of Kei... I got a lot of fan letters about his new haircut. The majority said he looks hot but apparently MBB received a lot of complaints, which has never happened before. Surprisingly, according to MBB, my manga had never received any complaints. (There's usually some.) But sometimes I get it in my fan letters. Like "Stop making Ran sit so feminine." I was drawing Kazuma and I realized that Ranmanu had become more feminine ever since he started dating Kei. I consider Ranmanu a lot more emotionally fragile than Kei or Kai. Maybe people may interpret that as being feminine? That's probably why I get letters from girls feeling empathetic with Ranmanu, but also adding, "I want a boyfriend like Ranmanu" at the end... I learn a lot from my readers. I don't really associate my emotions with any of the characters but I'm the one who created them so I guess that's how it is. Until next time... Kazuma Kodaka



But your Sugar Daddy told me not to give you a room key without his permission.

Give me a key!



Let me down, you idiot!

You shameless jerk!

You're the one who's shameless, making such a scene out on the street!

DASH  
TUKK



Yes, Ma'am! Sorry!

I said I'll take the blame! Gimme the key, you bastard! Or else I'll kill you!



He's going to fire me!

I can't believe this is happening. I have to call him.



No! I don't want to be in this hotel!

Let me down, you jerk!



Watch your head.

...



Say what?

Stop sneaking around and just go with Rena, you gigolo!

Kei, I had no idea you were gay.

It's a lover's quarrel!



Hurry up!

People are going to see us if we keep this up! Ow.

You're out of your mind! Let go, you idiot!

But!



Huh?!

We're not getting anywhere!

Rena! Go to the hotel and get a room!



!!

Up you go!

ひい  
わい



Fine!

I said go!

I'll go get it then!









What did you and Rena talk about?

It's Rena. Open the door. I'm leaving the room. The two boys are going to stay. What? My boyfriend's here? Tell him I'll be down in a minute and keep him waiting.



...I bet your beau is pretty nervous right now, so you should be nice to him.



Yeah, sorry about all that.

My boyfriend's going to get the wrong idea too! I'll see you later, Kei!

Oh, and...



All right?



I have no intention of having sex with anyone else but you!



Good job!

Why do you have to make me say these embarrassing things? Jeez...

I physically can't have sex with anyone but you!



Ranmaru, I'm the one who put that lipstick mark on him. I'm sorry.



Talk to Kei about everything we discussed.

This room is on me. Ranmaru, remember what you told me today?



Thanks.

I'm outie. Here's your address book.



I started to think things over.

What happened today... it was a misunderstanding, but when I found out you were dating a woman...



I'm thinking about it because it IS now!

What's the point of thinking about this now?



So if you fall in love with a woman--

...you'll never be able to tell people you're dating me.

No matter how much you love me...



I'm only a burden.

It's normal for a man and a woman to be together.



--Stop holding back and say it.

My existence can only be a burden to you.



What do you mean?



What do you think about our situation?



Kei...



Scoop Joking around. I'm talking about our relationship. I'm being serious.

We're in a very charming room and we're both waiting to get into the mood.



Hey... hey...

It's fine while we're at the university, but once we're out in the real world...



That's because he believes you and I are best friends.

My grandfather agreed to let me live with you.





You don't need to be kissed or be aroused.



Aaaa!



Ah!

It's just sex!



You said it yourself! You're only a substitute until I find a woman, so let me have you!



That's what I'll be?



A substitute for a woman?









It's fine...

My heart hurts more...



There's a cut on your beautiful face.

You have a cut on your lip. Sorry.

Oh...



Kel...



No! Don't touch it... ah...

Sorry I was so rough... Does it hurt?



Ah! What do you think you're doing!?

Your heart?

How about here?



I want to make love to you... Is that okay?

I know I just did something terrible, but...



Hey...



...I swore I never let you go.

Since back when we first met...ever since I asked you to live with me...



I don't care if I have to sacrifice everything.



For that dreadful day...

I was trying to prepare myself.



I was trying to get that through my head...

If you get a girlfriend I'll become your friend and wish you the best...



Remember that.

I'll never forgive you if you let that get through your head.











Masa...



Nn

See!  
You're going to  
wake him  
up!



He's such a  
spoiled brat.  
I picked him  
up and he  
didn't even  
wake  
up.

He  
thought  
you were  
Masa.



I  
went  
to your  
house,  
Kohei's  
house...

I was  
running  
around  
looking  
for you!

Wearing  
Kohei's  
shirt.



Shh.

Then  
I went  
to  
Kai's  
apart-  
ment...



It's  
fine,  
Kei.

He's  
sleeping  
on your  
bed...



Who  
cares  
where he  
sleeps?

I do.

I'll put  
him in  
my bed!



He's  
sleeping.  
(Chuckle)



You made  
him watch  
the house  
while you  
were out?

You  
should  
have  
said so!



# 哀恋歌 SONGS OF THE ACHING HEART



LOVE PHANTOM THE END



Pathetic  
guys like you  
should stick  
with other  
pathetic  
idiots.

You  
dumbass!

SONGS OF THE ACHING HEART

KIZUNA SERIES 10

哀恋歌



You're going to regret what you just said!



What? What kind of logic is that?

I think he was summoned by that gang that started with him earlier.

Are you sure Kai went this way?



Oh no... he didn't...

Ahh! Kai!

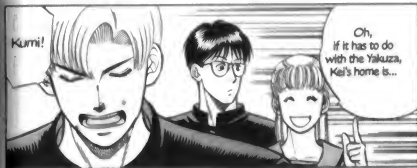


He finally said he's going to join a club! If he gets into a fight, that'll ruin everything!

# KIZUNA











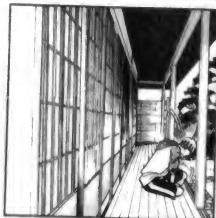
How embarrassing.

しみじみ  
SIGH

Things must be rough for you, Kyosuke.



...



...



You should join a club.  
You should do Kendo.

But make sure you don't get into fights so you don't get kicked out.



He's quick to get into fights.

In fact he had a fight just today.

Obvious?



Nope.

Kumi, does he know which Yakuza group he's dealing with?

My friend told me that his father--

--and the Yakuza are working together.



Sata is the head of the group he fought with and he's the son of a politician.



All right?

Stop sticking your nose into my business!



Ah...

Stop asking questions, Kyosuke!



But if I do Kendo  
I might become  
stronger than you,  
Masa. Are you  
sure you want  
that?













...that if  
he wants  
his woman  
back--

--come  
to the  
construction  
site on  
Third Ave.

Tell  
Kai...



drag  
him?

Damn it.  
I was planning to  
drag him to the  
Kendo club, too.



What?  
why me?

I'll go  
get the  
papers  
he needs!!  
No join.

If you  
see him, bring  
him to the  
Kendo Club.

Nope.  
Maybe  
he went  
home?



Nakajima,  
have  
you seen  
Kai?



That's  
not  
fair!

You  
have the  
Yakuza  
with you...

Naka-  
jima!



The  
Yakuza?

Kai's  
the son of  
a Yakuza!

Ugh  
...

Drop



Why  
are you  
screaming?



Good  
timing.



Ahhh!



Your father's a Yakuza?

Is it true...?



Kai...



What are you trying to say?

So that's why...



What about it?



Kumi?



It's your fault that Kumi is...

I want to say don't drag us into the Yakuza fights!



Hey, let's go!

Naka-jima!

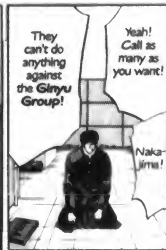
If his father's a Yakuza, we can do anything!



What?!



Nakajima!  
Call Kai's house!  
Explain the situation to Masanori!  
Please!



They can't do anything against the Ginyu Group!

Yeah! Call as many as you want!

Naka-jima!



Oh,  
you're Kai's  
friend...

Naka-  
jima?



Hello,  
Sagano  
Residence.



Hello?  
This is  
Masanori.



Hold  
on.

You  
want to  
talk to  
Masanori?  
What  
happened?



Thanks  
for letting  
me know.

The  
Ginyu  
Group...  
I see...



...



THROW



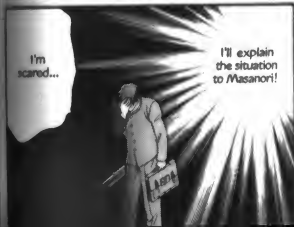
Sata took  
her to the  
construction  
site on Third  
Avenue!

What  
happened  
to Kumi?



You just  
watched  
them take  
her?

You  
idiot!



I'm  
scared...

I'll explain  
the situation  
to Masanori!



I...



In fact, you're acting so cool...



Who do you think you are!  
A thug like you doesn't deserve a maiden's virginity!



Grr...



I'll have you sunken in concrete!

I'm Masanori Araki's woman from the Sagano Group!



He's outnumbered!  
This isn't fair!  
Let go of me!!



Sata. It's been a while...

since I've had my hands on a peach like her.

What a loud broad.



Aren't we acting so cool?

Wait!  
Don't touch Kumi!

Ahh!  
What do you think you're doing, you pervert!



Go ahead.  
Make sweet love to her.

Can I have her?





You  
embarr-  
assed  
me...

Sees...  
Sata...

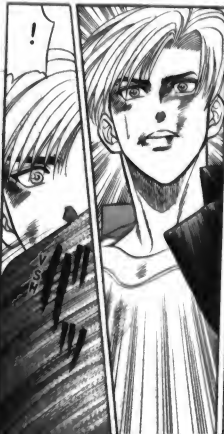


Kai...  
I'm not  
going to  
forgive  
you...



Masa...

Once  
you  
bring  
out  
the  
katana...



!



I'll  
kill  
you!



He's  
wearing  
a golden  
badge.  
He's the  
real thing.

Sata...  
this isn't  
good.



Shut up!  
I don't care  
about a  
badge!

This isn't  
good, Sata.  
Let's go!



...It is no  
longer a  
fight  
between  
kids.





No...

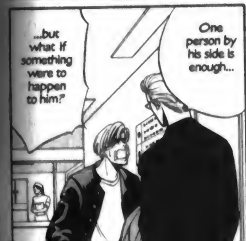


Kai... are you crying?



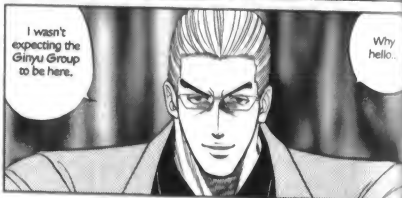












I wasn't expecting the Ginyu Group to be here.

Why hello...

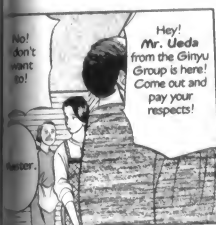


I'm Kyosuke Imagawa.

I'm the Head Master's assistant from the Sagano Group of the Kansai Shoryu Federation.



Who are you? How dare you come into my house like this!



No! I don't want to!

Hey! Mr. Ueda from the Ginyu Group is here! Come out and pay your respects!



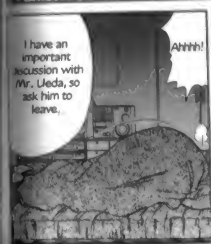
Young master won't come out...

What's wrong?



Imagawa?

A man named Kyosuke Imagawa is here to see you.



I have an important discussion with Mr. Ueda, so ask him to leave.

Ahhh!



It's him! He's here to get me!



You're lying!  
I've heard enough!

And it was the Ginyu Group that gave him the katana.

...and he sliced up our top executive's face.

He tried to slash our young master...



It's a piece of cake for us to kill him and destroy the Ginyu Group. You understand that, right, Mr. Ueda?

Your son may be an idiot, but I figured he's precious to you. That's why I came all this way even though it's taking time out of my schedule.



Also Masanori Araki, Top Executive of the Sagano Group, is seen as the next President of the Shoryu Federation.

Our group is only able to form because the Shoryu Federation is letting us.

Mr. Ueda?

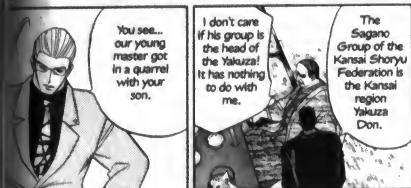
He's right.



I don't know which Yakuza group you're from, but you're trespassing! Leave!

There's something I wanted to discuss with you two.

Shoryu Federation?



You see... our young master got in a quarrel with your son.

I don't care if his group is the head of the Yakuza! It has nothing to do with me.

The Sagano Group of the Kansai Shoryu Federation is the Kansai region Yakuza Don.

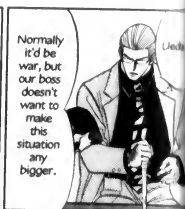


Mr. Sata, your son has done something serious.

If it were just a fistfight I wouldn't come all this way.

How stupid. You're here to settle a kid's fight?

It's both their faults if they get injured.





Please  
come  
here.

ニ  
コ  
シ  
テ

Kai,  
you're  
here,  
right?



Your face  
is the first thing  
Masa wants  
to see.

Kai...



Worry!

Please  
don't run!

Hagikure Gen  
Two weeks  
later.



He's  
going  
to open  
his eyes  
and  
they're  
going  
to check  
his  
sight.

Kyo-  
suke!

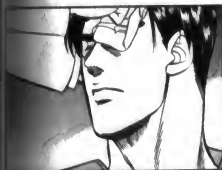
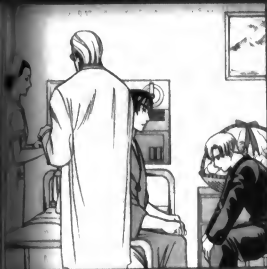


Please  
come  
in.

A...

Masa  
wanted you  
to be there  
with him.















You just keep giving. I've never been able to do anything for you.

You never ask for anything from me.

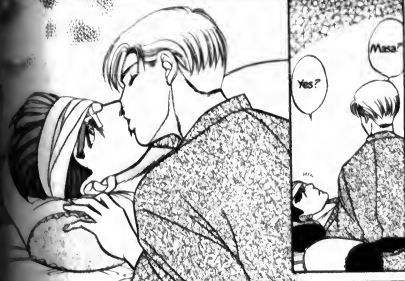


Is there anything you want me to do for you?

Is there anything I can do for you?

No... I'll wait him...

He's...



...little, and I kissed you without fully understanding what it means to kiss someone?

Remember when I was...



You kiss the people who you love.



I don't think I was wrong.



I have  
nothing  
to offer  
Masa.



But  
I'm not  
a woman,  
so...

If I  
could  
satisfy  
him  
like a  
woman...



...I  
didn't  
know if  
I could...



Ma...



Nn...

What have  
I done...

What  
am I...

Masa?

When  
Masa would  
leave to go see his  
woman, I sometimes  
felt he'd never  
come back...

Was I  
no good?

Um...  
I...  
I'm sorry.

Forgive  
me.

Af...

Masa,  
I have an  
idea.

Nn...

Ah!

おはよう  
おはよう  
おはよう









He's  
my treasure  
and nothing  
should hurt  
him.

I see.



He's my  
treasure.



I will  
continue  
to protect  
him.

Of course  
I'm heavy!  
I'm a  
growing  
man!

You've  
gotten so  
heavy!

Let's  
see...

I remember  
you riding on my  
shoulders as  
if it were  
yesterday.

Like a  
brother...  
like a  
father...



He'll  
accept  
everything  
about me so I  
won't get  
hurt.

Masa!

If I say it  
now he'll  
probably  
accept it.

But it's not  
something I  
want if he has  
to sacrifice  
something.



I'm  
going to  
join the  
Kendo  
Club!

# About Kazuma Kodaka

Born November 19, 1969: Scorpio: Blood Type O.

Born in Kobe Prefecture, and currently residing in Saitama Prefecture, she made her debut with *Weekly Shonen Champion* in 1989. She is a talented up-and-coming manga artist with a Shonen manga style that's accompanied with Shojo manga style sensibilities.

